

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The above Amendments and these Remarks are in reply to the Final Office Action mailed October 6, 2006.

I. Summary of the Examiner's Rejections

Prior to the Final Office Action mailed October 6, 2006, claims 1, 3-19 and 29-37 were pending in the Application. In that Office Action, claims 1, 3-8, 11-17 and 29-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,457,007). Claims 9-10, 18-19 and 36-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Weinreb et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,426,747).

II. Summary of Applicant's Amendments

The present Reply cancels claims 9, 11-19, and 36; amends claims 1, 7, 10, 29-30, 32-34, and 37; and adds new claims 38-45, leaving for the Examiner's present consideration claims 1, 3-8, 10, 29-35, and 37-45. Reconsideration of the claims in light of the following arguments is respectfully requested. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute any originally presented or canceled claims in a continuing or future application.

III. Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3-8, 11-17 and 29-35 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Kikuchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,457,007).

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended by the present Response to more clearly define the embodiment therein. As amended, claim 1 defines:

1. (Currently amended) A method of searching a plurality of content repositories, comprising:

providing for the representation of the plurality of content repositories as a virtual content repository (VCR) that includes a content model, the content model including a set of content nodes and a set of hierarchy of nodes such that a content node is created for each of the plurality of content repositories, each content node is associated with its own content schema, a hierarchy node is created for different types of content available in the plurality of content repositories, each hierarchy node is associated with one or more of the plurality of content nodes, and each hierarchy node is associated with its own hierarchy schema;

searching the VCR for information that satisfies a search expression;

providing search results;

wherein each one of the plurality of content repositories implements a service provider interface (SPI) that integrates the corresponding content repository into the VCR and such that each SPI interfaces between the VCR and the corresponding content repository.

Kikuchi discloses a distributed database management system including a logical database constituting a group of physical databases. Kikuchi discloses a logical database in which at least one database among physical databases covering a plurality of servers is grouped beforehand. In Fig. 1, Kikuchi shows two logical databases 4 that contain different groupings of physical databases 1. (col. 3, lines 34-37).

Claim 1 has been amended to define creating that a *hierarchy node is created for different types of content available in the plurality of content repositories*. These hierarchy nodes are used to organize or group together different types of content. For example, Fig. 7 shows a Virtual Content Repository (VCR) having four hierarchy nodes with corresponding content types of “HR,” “Images,” “Marketing,” and “Products.” There is no limit to the depth of the hierarchy. (paras. 0031 and 0047). Thus, as the hierarchy of nodes is traversed from the root, or the entire VCR, a child hierarchy node will contain a sub-type of content specified by its parent hierarchy node. Although Kikuchi discloses logical databases that group together different combinations of physical databases, Kikuchi does not disclose the notion that the logical databases are specified in a hierarchy format. It follows that Kikuchi does not disclose a hierarchy of nodes for which the content of the physical databases is grouped into smaller groups of content as the hierarchy is traversed.

Claim 1 has also been amended to define that a *content node is created for each of the plurality of content repositories* and that *each hierarchy node is associated with one or more of the plurality of content nodes*. For example, Fig. 8 shows a “Products” hierarchy node having four *content nodes* 806, “Laptop,” “PocketPC,” “Server,” and “Wireless Card.” The hierarchy node content type is “Products.” As each hierarchy node is created for different types of content, content nodes associated with a hierarchy node contain content sub-types of the hierarchy node’s content type. Kikuchi does not disclose any content nodes created for each of the physical databases. As Kikuchi does not disclose content nodes, it follows that Kikuchi does not disclose hierarchy nodes associated with one or more of the plurality of content nodes.

Thus, Kikuchi does not disclose that a hierarchy node is created for each different type of content available in the plurality of content repositories; that a content node is created for each of the plurality of content repositories; and that each hierarchy node is associated with one or more of the plurality of content nodes, as required by claim 1. For at least these reasons,

claim 1 is neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of Kikuchi. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim.

Claims 3-6, 8, 30-33, and 35

Claims 3-6, 8, 12-15, 17, 30-33, and 35 are not addressed separately, but it is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable in view of the comments provided above. Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are similarly neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of the cited references, and reconsideration thereof is respectfully requested. It is also submitted that these claims also add their own limitations which render them patentable in their own right. Applicant respectfully reserves the right to argue these limitations should it become necessary in the future.

Claims 7 and 34

As amended, claims 7 and 34 require extending the content model to store information about the content model in the plurality of content repositories. Information about the content model, such as information about content nodes, content schemas, hierarchy nodes and hierarchy schemas is stored in the plurality of content repositories. Kikuchi discloses that physical databases 1 store and manage a plurality of tables, but this is not the same as extending the logical databases to include information in the physical databases. Thus, Kikuchi does not disclose extending the content model to include information in the plurality of content repositories, as required by claims 7 and 34. For at least these reasons, claims 7 and 34 are neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of Kikuchi. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these claims.

Claim 29

The comments provided above with respect to claim 1 are hereby incorporated by reference. Claim 29 has been similarly amended to more clearly define the embodiment of the invention therein as a method for routing requests from clients to a plurality of different business protocols. Applicant respectfully submits that the embodiment defined by claim 29 is neither anticipated by nor obvious in view of the cited references and respectfully requests reconsideration of the claim.

IV. Claims Rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 9-10, 18-19 and 36-37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kikuchi in view of Weinreb et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,426,747).

Claims 10 and 37

Claims 10 and 37 as amended require that searching the VCR for information includes searching one or more of the content nodes, the content node schemas, the hierarchy nodes, and the hierarchy node schemas. As discussed above for claim 1, the content nodes and hierarchy nodes, which each have their own schemas, are part of the content model. These nodes are separate from the plurality of content repositories.

Weinreb discloses a method and apparatus for virtual memory mapping and transaction management in an object-oriented database system. Weinreb discloses that each database has a “schema” associated therewith. (col. 4, line 27). Weinreb, however, does not disclose content or hierarchy nodes. Thus, a search of this database schema is different than a search of content or hierarchy node schemas. Further, Weinreb discloses *searching* a persistent relocation map 150 in order to translate pointers in a cached database page to a corresponding virtual address. (col. 12, lines 20-34). Searching a relocation map is not the same as searching content and hierarchy nodes that do not involve pointers and addressing. For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 10 and 37 are neither anticipated by, nor obvious in view of Kikuchi or Weinreb, taken alone or in combination, and respectfully requests reconsideration of these claims.

V. Claims 9, 11-19, and 36

Claims 9, 11-19, and 36 have been canceled by the present Response, rendering moot the rejections of these claims.

VI. Additional Claims

Claims 38-45 have been newly added by the present Response. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is being added in new claims 38-45 and respectfully requests that these claims be considered herewith.

VII. Conclusion

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now pending in the subject patent application should be allowable, and reconsideration of the claims is respectfully

requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned if she can assist in any way in expediting issuance of a patent.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any underpayment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1325 for any matter in connection with this response, including any fee for extension of time, which may be required.

Respectfully submitted,

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